



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

May 29, 2020

We are here to help.

COVID-19 has affected various aspects of life for Iowa residents, communities, and businesses. Information surrounding COVID-19 is rapidly changing and can be overwhelming. To help Iowans navigate information, the Iowa Department of Human Rights has compiled some resources about health and safety, language access, food, employment, grants, and more that we will be sending out in a weekly email. We hope these resources will help Iowans stay safe, healthy, informed, and resilient during these challenging times.

During the pandemic, it is especially important for us to serve as a catalyst of information to provide support and resources to Iowans, particularly vulnerable Iowans who are experiencing additional challenges, to help them understand the state's response to COVID-19.

Governor Reynolds Signs Proclamation Continuing the Public Health Disaster Emergency

On Tuesday, May 26, Governor Reynolds [signed a new proclamation continuing the Public Health Disaster Emergency until June 25, 2020.](#)

As previously announced, the proclamation permits bars, wineries, breweries, distilleries, and social and fraternal clubs to reopen on Thursday, May 28 with the same public health measures as restaurants in place.

The proclamation also permits the reopening on June 1 of additional establishments, including outdoor performance venues, casinos, bowling alleys, amusement parks, skating rinks, skate parks, and outdoor playgrounds.

The proclamation again permits social, community, recreational, leisure, and sporting gatherings and events of more than 10 people if public health measures are implemented, including limiting attendance to 50% of the venue capacity and maintaining six feet of distance between those attending. This also allows practices, games, and competitions for youth and adult baseball, softball, and individual sports such as running, biking, swimming, tennis, and golf to resume with appropriate public health measures in place.

The proclamation extends regulatory relief to those affected by this public health emergency until June 25.

To view the full proclamation, click [here](#). In partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health, visit the Iowa Department of Human Rights' [Language Access](#) page for translated summaries of the proclamations and other information in multiple languages.

Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program

On May 29, Governor Kim Reynolds launched a new program that will provide short-term relief to income-eligible renters and homeowners who are at risk of eviction or foreclosure due to a documented COVID-19 related loss of income. The COVID-19 Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Program is administered by the Iowa Finance Authority. To apply and for more information on eligibility, visit: <https://www.iowafinance.com/covid-19-iowa-eviction-and-foreclosure-prevention-program/>

The [Iowa Community Action Association](#) (ICAA) and Iowa's local community action agencies are partnering with the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) and Iowa Workforce Development to assist in reviewing and approving applications, and will assist renters with their applications. The Iowa Department of Human Rights will collaborate with ICAA, IFA, and the [network of community action agencies](#) to develop and implement outreach strategies for underserved communities.

- Housing Recovery Help Line 1-855-300-5885; 515-348-8813 (English and Spanish); email: housingrecovery@iowafinance.com
- Legal Assistance, Iowa Legal Aid 1-800-332-0419

Know Your Rights: Eviction Information for Non-Payment of Rent

EVICTIION INFORMATION

FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

After May 27, 2020, Iowa's eviction moratorium is scheduled to end. Below is information to help you know your rights.

- If you get a call from your landlord saying you have to move out; **OR**
- If you get a notice from your landlord saying you have to move out; **OR**
- Your landlord tells you that your rental agreement is not being renewed and you have to move out; **OR**
- Your landlord tells you that you have to move out because the Governor has lifted the eviction moratorium...

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO MOVE.
ONLY A JUDGE CAN LAWFULLY
EVICT A TENANT.**

IOWA LAW REQUIRES

A tenant who does not pay rent on time must get a notice from the landlord.

1. The notice must be in writing.
2. The notice has to say the lease will end if rent is not paid within 3 days.
3. The notice has to be properly served to you.
4. This 3-day period gives you a "right to cure" by paying the rent within those three days.
5. If you pay the full amount of rent in three days, the landlord cannot legally evict you.



IMPORTANT FACTS

If you cannot pay the rent within 3 days, you do not have to move out right away.

The landlord must first file an eviction action in court.

**ONLY A JUDGE CAN LAWFULLY
EVICT A TENANT.**

RESOURCES

IOWA LEGAL AID

Iowa Legal Aid provides help to low-income Iowans facing eviction.

To apply for help from Iowa Legal Aid:

- Call 800-532-1275
- Iowans age 60 and over, call 800-992-8161
- Apply online at: www.iowalegalaid.org

HOME INC.

HOME, Inc.'s free, confidential counseling helps people facing eviction from rental housing or foreclosure from homeownership.

- Call 515-243-1277 and follow the phone prompts.
- [View the HOME, Inc. handbook](#)

Information will be coming soon about options for paying back rent.

Need Help with Your Home Energy Bill?

Home Energy Assistance Application Deadline June 30, 2020

For individuals who received a disconnection notice or who have difficulty paying a utility bill, there is help available through the [Iowa Department of Human Rights' network of local community action agencies that have offices in all 99 counties](#). Families can apply for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that can help pay a portion of an eligible household's utility bill. The application deadline is extended to **June 30, 2020**.

Community action agencies also have other types of help available, such as food and clothing pantries, and other services. You can find a link to information about your local community action agency by going to the Iowa Department of Human Rights' website at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/where-apply> or by dialing 2-1-1.

Information on the extended LIHEAP application deadline is available in multiple languages on the Iowa Department of Human Rights' website at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/covid-19/language-access>.

Testlowa COVID-19 Testing and Locations

Testlowa has expanded the testing criteria, and the free COVID-19 test will be provided to anyone who is interested in being tested, regardless of symptoms or potential exposure to the virus. Go to the website first at Testlowa.com to take or retake the assessment, and you will receive information and instructions regarding your appointment. .

Visit <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov/> for a list of Testlowa sites, schedule, and COVID-19 information in Iowa.

Call Testlowa with questions about testing: 515-575-2131 or 844-844-1561 (toll free). Lines are open 8am - 8pm 7 days a week (except Holidays).

[View the Press Release here.](#)

Beware of Scams

Contact tracers are individuals who help identify people who have come in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and instructs them to quarantine and monitor their symptoms daily. Scammers are posing as contact tracers and sending malicious text messages. The messages include links that will download software onto your device and give scammers access to your personal and financial information. The [Federal Trade Commission](#) advises to ignore and delete these scam messages.

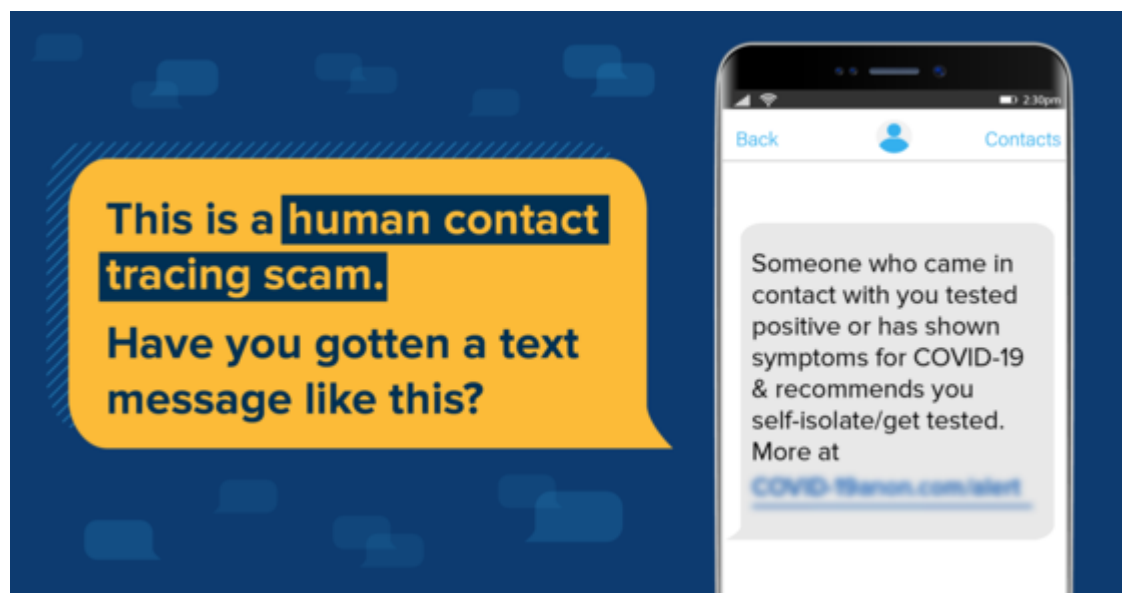


Photo credit: FTC

Scammers are using a number of methods to defraud consumers using scams and misinformation about testing, treatment, and charities. The Iowa Department of Human Rights has compiled a Q&A on how to protect yourself against coronavirus myths, rumors, and scams at <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/covid-19/myth-busters>.

Workplace

Two new unemployment benefit programs now available to Iowans

Iowa Workforce Development announced two new unemployment benefit programs available to Iowans--Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) and State Extended Benefits. The Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation provides an additional 13 weeks of federally funded benefits to Iowans who have exhausted their 26 weeks of regular state unemployment benefits. After their allotted weeks of regular state unemployment and the 13 weeks of PEUC are exhausted, unemployed workers will be eligible for State Extended Benefits. For more information, visit [IWD's website](#) and [press release](#).

U.S. Department of Labor provides guidance on paid leave related to COVID-19

Quick BENEFITS TIPS FROM DOL

How much paid leave can employees take?

In general, applies to you if you are an employee of either a private employer with fewer than 500 employees or a covered public sector employer

Scenario	OR / AND	Scenario	TIME OFF
You are following a federal, state, or local quarantine or stay-at-home order or are quarantined by a health care provider	OR	You have COVID-19 symptoms and are seeking a diagnosis	Up to two weeks or 80 hours of paid sick leave at higher of regular rate or minimum wage*
You must care for someone under a federal, state, or local quarantine or stay-at-home order or are quarantined by a health care provider	OR	You must care for your child whose school, child care provider, or place of care is unavailable due to COVID-19	Up to two weeks or 80 hours of paid sick leave at higher of 2/3 regular rate or minimum wage*
You must care for your child whose school, child care provider, or place of care is unavailable due to COVID-19	AND	You've been employed at least 30 calendar days	Up to 10 additional weeks of family leave paid at 2/3 regular rate*

*Paid leave is capped at specific maximum amounts per worker

Learn more at dol.gov/FFCRA

(Click [here for the PDF version](#) of this infographic.)

For written guidance: <https://blog.dol.gov/2020/05/11/are-you-eligible-for-covid-19-paid-leave>

For general information on COVID-19 policies and law in the workplace from the U.S. Department of Labor:

- English (with links to additional languages as you scroll down the page): <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/pandemic>

- Español: <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/spanish-speakingtopic>

Other Resources and Information

Iowa-Nebraska NAACP Presents Seven-Part Virtual Town Hall Series



IOWA-NEBRASKA NAACP PRESENTS
A SEVEN-PART VIRTUAL TOWN HALL SERIES ON FACEBOOK LIVE

**WHAT'S NEXT WITH COVID-19
& OUR COMMUNITY?**
DISPARATE IMPACT AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

ANSWERING YOUR MOST PRESSING QUESTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC:
NATIONAL NAACP LEADERSHIP & LOCAL ADVOCATES ADDRESS HEALTH,
ECONOMICS, VOTING/CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, EDUCATION, CLIMATE JUSTICE
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, PLUS HATE CRIMES IN OUR COMMUNITY

HOSTED BY BETTY C. ANDREWS
PRES. IOWA-NEBRASKA NAACP

MAY 27 - 30 & JUNE 3 - 5, 2020 | 6 PM CST NIGHTLY

BONUS TOWN HALL SAT 5.30.20:
HATE CRIMES IN OUR COMMUNITY
FEAT. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE & FBI INVESTIGATORS

DERRICK JOHNSON, NAT'L NAACP PRESIDENT & CEO JOINS 6.4.20

NIGHTLY NATIONAL NAACP EXPERT PANELISTS

WED 5.27	THU 5.28	FRI 5.29
DR. MARJORIE INNOCENT HEALTH DIRECTOR	MARVIN OWENS ECONOMIC DIRECTOR	JAMAL WATKINS VP, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
		
WED 6.3	THU 6.4	FRI 6.5
VICTOR GOODE EDUCATION DIRECTOR & ASST. GENERAL COUNSEL	TERRELL THOMAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIRECTOR	JACQUELINE PATTERSON ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE DIRECTOR
		

FB.COM/IOWANEBRASKANAACP

#COVIDBLACK
#NAACP #IANENAACP
#WEAREDONEDYING

LOCAL PANELISTS LISTED
ON FB EVENT PAGE

Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/iowanebraskaNAACP/> for more information.

Iowa legislative session to resume June 3, 2020

The Iowa legislature is scheduled to resume on June 3. For information about session, meetings, schedules, and bills, visit <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>.

Iowa DHS launches COVID Recovery Iowa, free virtual counseling sessions for Iowans

The Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) received nearly \$1 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to offer free counseling to any Iowan who has been affected, in any way, by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The program, called [COVID Recovery Iowa](#), is now available.

Counseling will take place via virtual sessions, chat or phone call. People of all ages may join groups online to find support and learn new strategies to cope with the effects of the pandemic in a variety of creative ways.

Iowans can access services through the following options:

- Call 800-447-1985 to connect with a counselor specializing in rural issues and agriculture 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Call the Iowa Warm Line, 844-775-9276, to connect with a peer counselor or request to get in touch with a COVID Recovery Iowa counselor.
- Visit www.COVIDrecoveryiowa.org and complete a contact form and a counselor will get back to you.

Iowa Department of Transportation seeking input

The Iowa Department of Transportation is seeking input from Iowans concerning the FY 2021 - 2023 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goals for the Federal Highway Administration funded projects. The Iowa DOT is seeking public participation on its goal-setting process from minority, women, general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials. The next input meeting will be held Thursday, June 18, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. View the Iowa DOT's [news release](#).

Previous Newsletters

[May 22, 2020](#)

[May 15, 2020](#)

[May 8, 2020](#)

[May 1, 2020](#)

[April 24, 2020](#)

[April 17, 2020](#)

[April 10, 2020](#)

Are there other resources we should know about? Let us know.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter, click [here](#) or navigate to the "Manage Subscriptions" section below.

Iowa Department of Human Rights

Lucas State Office Building 321 E 12th Street | Des Moines, IA 50319
515-242-5640 or 1-800-351-4659

[Contact Us Form](#)

